MASSACHUSETTS GUIDE
Hunting, Freshwater Fishing, and Trapping Laws

2018 HUNTING SEASONS & BAG LIMITS

NO HUNTING ON SUNDAY		OPEN SEASON (ALL DATES INCLUSIVE)		DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	ANNUAL LIMIT
BLACK BEAR						
Black Bear	Zones 1–14	First Season	Sept. 4 – Sept. 22	See "Black Bear," below.		1
		Second Season	Nov. 5 – Nov. 24			
		Shotgun Season (restrictions apply*)	Nov. 26 – Dec. 8			

*Hunters must wear 500 square inches of hunter orange on their head, chest and back. Rifles and handguns prohibited.

UPLAND GAME BIRDS*						
Wild Turkey	Spring: Zones 1–13		April 30 – May 26	See "Wild Turkey," below.		
	Fall: Zones 1–13		Oct. 22 – Nov. 3			
	Youth Hunt: Zones 1–13		April 28 (see box below)			
Crow	Zones 1–14		Jan. 1 – April 9 July 2 – April 10, 2019	—	—	—
Pheasant	Zones 1–14		Oct. 13 – Nov. 24	2	4	6
	Youth Hunt		See page 47.			
Quail	Zones 11–14		Oct. 13 – Nov. 24	4	8	20
Ruffed Grouse	Zones 1–14		Oct. 13 – Nov. 24	3	6	15

Upland game bird hunting is closed during shotgun deer season.

DEER					
Deer	Youth Deer Hunt	Sept. 29	See "Deer," below and pages 38–39.	1 antlered deer OR 1 antlerless deer in Zone specified in permit during season
	Paraplegic Hunt	Nov. 1 – Nov. 3	See "Deer," below and pages 38–39.	2 antlered deer + antlerless deer by permit
	Archery (Zones 10 - 14)	Oct. 1 - Nov. 24		
	Archery (Zones 1 - 9)	Oct. 15 - Nov. 24		
	Shotgun	Nov. 26 – Dec. 8		
	Primitive Firearms	Dec. 10 – Dec. 31		

RABBITS AND SQUIRREL					
Cottontail Rabbit	Zones 1–12	Jan. 1 – Feb. 28, Oct. 13 – Feb. 28, 2019	5	10	—
	Zones 13 and 14	Jan. 1 – Feb. 28, Nov. 15 – Feb 28, 2019	5	10	—
Snowshoe Hare	Zones 1–4	Jan. 1 – Feb. 28, Oct. 13 – Feb. 28, 2019	2	4	—
	Zones 5–12	Jan. 1 – Feb. 5, Oct. 13 – Feb. 5, 2019	2	4	—
	Zones 13 and 14	Jan. 1 – Feb. 5, Nov. 15 – Feb. 5, 2019	2	4	—
Gray Squirrel	Zones 1–9	Sept. 10 – Jan. 2, 2019	5	10	—
	Zones 10–14	Oct. 13 – Jan. 2, 2019	5	10	—

Cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare, jackrabbit, and gray squirrel hunting are closed during shotgun deer season.

FURBEARERS					
Bobcat	Zones 1–8	Jan. 1 – Mar. 8, Dec. 20 – Mar. 8, 2019	—	—	—
Coyote	Zones 1–14	Jan. 1 – Mar. 8, Oct. 13 – Mar. 8, 2019	—	—	—
Fox (red or gray)	Zones 1–14	Jan. 1 – Feb. 28, Nov. 1 – Feb 28, 2019	—	—	—
Raccoon	Zones 1–14	Jan. 1 – Jan. 31, Oct. 1 – Jan. 31, 2019	3	* see Raccoon below	—
Opossum	Zones 1–14	Jan. 1 – Jan. 31, Oct. 1 – Jan. 31, 2019	—	—	—

All furbearer hunting seasons are closed during the shotgun deer season except for coyotes.

TO REPORT VIOLATIONS
(800) 632-8075